

N THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 17 appearing with the following:

Figure 1 further illustrates lead 2 including first electrode 26 joined to a lead body 30 in proximity to a distal end 24 and a second electrode 25 joined to lead body 30 in proximity to first electrode 26 and spaced a distance X from first electrode 26. First electrode 26 and second electrode 25 are electrically coupled to lead contacts 22 and 23 via insulated conductors (not shown) extending along lead body 30. According to embodiments of the present invention, first electrode 26 and second electrode 25 form a bipolar pair, each having a surface area adapted for low voltage pacing and sensing, and distance X between first electrode 26 and second electrode 25 is less than approximately 9 millimeters; furthermore, first electrode 26 has a negative polarity and is adapted for intimate contact with tissue at an implant site and second electrode 25 has a positive polarity and is prevented from having direct touching contact with tissue adjacent to the implant site by a porous layer (Figures 2-3) formed over second electrode 25. Electrodes 25 and 26, and other electrodes described herein, according to some embodiments, are comprised of a platinum-iridium alloy. First electrode 26, and other first electrodes described herein, may have a porous surface structure enhancing intimate tissue contact as well as a steroid coating formed thereover or a plug comprising steroid formed therein. Details associated with electrode fabrication and alternate electrode materials, including, but not limited to titanium, tantalum, ruthenium, and carbon, are well known to those skilled in the art of lead construction. It should be noted that positions of first electrode 26 and second electrode 25 might be switched according to alternate embodiments of the present invention.